05 - 0349

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

Office of Ron Ryan - Statewide Commander

January, 2003

To the Criminal Gang Oversight Council,

In accordance with the by-laws of the Oversight Council, I as the Statewide Commander have been directed to report to you on a monthly basis and also to produce a yearly report on the operations and status of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force (MGSF). Please accept this report as my summary of the accomplishments of the MGSF, along with a look at the status of gangs in the state of Minnesota for the year 2002.

2002 was our fifth year in existence and it has proven to be one of our most productive years. We continue our focus on being a partner in the law enforcement community. We operate in a collaborative manner, working with local, state, and federal law enforcement; addressing the criminal activity caused by gangs in the state of Minnesota.

The legislature, in 1997, took a bold step in creating a law enforcement entity made up of local law enforcement officers, working together as one unit, that could focus its entire attention on combating the increasing numbers of crimes committed by gang members in this state. The mission of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force was to investigate, arrest, and prosecute gang members engaged in criminal activity in Minnesota. The MGSF was set up so we would not have any jurisdictional boundaries and would be free to move about the state to fight the gang problem. In addition to investigations we were also mandated to give training to local agencies and prosecutors regarding gangs and to develop the expertise and intelligence information on gangs in order to accomplish these tasks.

Due to local fiscal problems, there has been a reduction in the number of investigators assigned to the MGSF by local contributing law enforcement agencies during 2002. This has been both disappointing and challenging. However, having said that I continue to be encouraged by the great work being done by our investigators through out the state. This year has been a record year for results when we measure the productivity of our investigators dealing with crimes committed by gang members. The total numbers of arrests has reached 860 followed by substantial convictions from the completed investigations in the year 2002. The MGSF has had an average of about 700 arrests of criminal gang members per year since our inception in 1997.

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The numbers of confirmed gang members, and their activities, have increased substantially during 2002. Part of the increase had to do with better reporting and the addition of the North Central Criminal Gang Board to the MGSF. Through a grant, the Board was added to our gang data entry system which compiles information from throughout the state. However, the major impact seems to be the numbers of gang members who have been released from prison during the year and the influx of gang members from outside the state. I think this is particularly noticeable in greater Minnesota where we have seen a considerable increase in Hispanic and Native American gangs.

This increase should not come as any great surprise to us in the state of Minnesota. Most metropolitan areas in the country have also begun seeing this increased gang activity as gang members were paroled in their areas this past year. We saw crime rates being reduced but gang violence sharply rising at the same time. Los Angles, the second-largest city in the nation, has seen an alarming rise in their homicide rate. They attribute gang violence as a major contributor to the surge. Closer to home we have the city of Minneapolis which attributed more then half of their 46 homicides in the year 2002 to gang activity.

As we address this year's Minnesota Legislature and look for renewed funding for the Minnesota Gang Strike Force and our anti-gang programs, we are faced with tremendous budget shortfalls. We must, however, point out that public safety must be one of the most important issues they we will face during this legislature session. They must be made aware of the successes of the MGSF. It must be pointed out this is tax money well spent and that we have established a foundation for dealing with criminal gang behavior for years to come.

The resurgence of gangs, throughout the country, this past year can be blamed on many things; but the fact of the matter is, law enforcement let down its guard against gangs because things seemed to be under control. However, Minnesota had one event this past year that jolted us back into the awareness of the continued presence of gangs and gang violence. That was the death of 11-year old Tyesha Edwards in the City of Minneapolis. Tyesha was fatally shot as she sat in her home doing her homework as thugs from rival gangs were carelessly shooting at each other outside. The citizens of Minnesota must be assured this violence will not be tolerated and that the Minnesota Gang Strike Force will continue to be able to operate in an effective manner and deal with gangs using their successful anti-gang initiatives. Our citizens deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

R Ryan

Ron Ryan
Statewide Commander, MGSF

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Minnesota Gang Strike Force – Website
http://www.dps.state.mn.us/strikeforce/

MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE ROSTER

Statewide Commander, Ron Ryan	651/917-4805 651/917-4813 Fax
Metro Regional Commander, Art Blakey Deputy Regional Commander, John Boulger (Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Washington County Sheriff's, MPD, SPPD, ATF, BCA, DEA, FBI)	651/917-4801 651/917-4802 651/917-4813 Fax
Northeast Regional Commander, Jim Wright (Duluth PD, St. Louis County Sheriff, BCA)	218/723-3692 218/723-3445 Fax
Southeast Regional Commander, Casey Moilanen (Rochester PD, Olmsted County Sheriff, Goodhue County Sheriff)	507/287-1421 507/281-7345 Fax
Central Regional Commander, David LaBeaux (St. Cloud PD, Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns County Sheriff)	320/650-3888 320/650-3852 Fax
Southwest Regional Commander, Jody Gladis (Marshall PD, Worthington PD, Mankato PD)	507/537-7000 507/537-6034 Fax
Minnesota Attorney's General, MGSF Prosecutors (Deputy A.G. Pete Orput, Deputy A.G. Hilary Caligiuri, Assistant A.G. Brent Wartner)	651/917-4807 651/917-4813 Fax
North Central Criminal Gang Board - Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard County Sheriffs, Bemidji P.D., Leach Lake DPS (Gang Activity Data Entry)	218/759-8130 218/755-9384 Fax
Minnesota Gang Pointer File (Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Julie Barrows)	651/523-7193 651/917-4813 Fax

MISSION OF MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force was created to identify, investigate, arrest and prosecute gang members engaged in "criminal activity" in the state of Minnesota. The primary goals of the MGSF are:

1. Target for prosecution individuals who are most criminally active within a gang or who hold leadership positions. The key here is "criminal gang activity." The MGSF targets those who benefit from this gang activity, and does not target young people because of their physical appearance.

2. To coordinate proactive long-term investigations on targeted gang members.

3. To react promptly to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies.

4. To provide peace officers and prosecutors throughout the state of Minnesota with training on tactics and techniques for investigating and prosecuting gang crimes.

5. To obtain information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies in the state.

6. To ensure that the community receives information about plans, activities and decisions of the Criminal Gang Oversight Council through regular meetings with the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People, the Council on Black Minnesotans and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and to ensure that the position of the Councils on Gang Strike Force activities is then heard by the MGSF Oversight Council.

2002 – YEAR FIVE PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force (MGSF) continues to be extremely productive in its fifth year of operation. The criminal activities that the Strike Force has successfully investigated include gang related homicides, aggravated assaults, drive by shootings, robberies, and criminal sexual assaults, all committed by gang members.

MGSF investigators have also been part of several successful multi-agency narcotic investigations because of their intelligence regarding drug gangs. These include investigations done with state drug task forces, federal organized crime task forces, as well as with local city and country law enforcement agencies. Examples of some of the different types of criminal activity successfully prosecuted in each of the MGSF regions will be highlighted at the end of this report.

The following is a look at performance statistics for the MGSF for the years 1998 through 2002.

Arrests:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**
Northeast	107	209	150	144	174
Southeast	21	44	58	50	35
Metro	212	358	237	411	428
Central	55	78	128	91	157
Northwest*	30	51	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	27	56	79	66
Total	**425**	**660**	**629**	**775**	**860**

Convictions:	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**
Northeast	30	48	43	36	58
Southeast	--	25	3	7	22
Metro	70	148	77	124	137
Central	29	54	92	46	98
Northwest	--	10	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	13	39	40	50
Total	**129**	**298**	**254**	**253**	**365**

Pending Dispositions:	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**
Northeast	84	87	86
Southeast	29	46	26
Metro	79	262	269
Central	36	41	57
Northwest	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	17	39	16
Total	**245**	**477**	**454**

* Northwest Region withdrew from the MGSF in 2000.

2002 – YEAR FIVE PERFORMANCE STATISTICS cont.

Search Warrants:	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Northeast	42	34	42	40	47
Southeast	8	18	5	12	2
Metro	112	193	150	258	212
Central	32	25	52	28	47
Northwest*	32	19	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	4	5	18	17
Total	**226**	**293**	**254**	**358**	**325**

Firearms Seized:	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Northeast	57	14	4	32	33
Southeast	3	4	1	2	0
Metro	105	102	109	192	142
Central	21	4	8	3	4
Northwest	--	2	NA	NA	NA
Southwest	NA	--	--	9	5
Total	**186**	**126**	**122**	**238**	**184**

* Northwest Region withdrew from the MGSF in 2000.

Controlled Substances Seized:	2002
Northeast	49 lbs. marijuana, 2.23 oz. methamphetamine, 12 grams heroin, 28.57 grams crack cocaine, 2.07 lbs. cocaine, 4.11 lbs. psilocybin mushrooms, 40 misc. pills
Southeast	4.41 ozs. marijuana, 12 grams crack cocaine, 16 grams cocaine
Metro	563.02 lbs. marijuana, .04 lbs hashish, 14.65 lbs. methamphetamine, 4 grams opium, 50 lbs. khat, 1.5 ozs. heroin, 9.77 lbs. crack cocaine, 16 lbs. cocaine
Central	5.25 lbs. marijuana, 33 ozs. methamphetamine, 14 ozs. crack cocaine
Southwest	2.92 ozs. marijuana, 1.22 lbs. methamphetamine, 31.5 grams crack cocaine

NOTE: The seized controlled substances are the result of investigations of criminal activity involving narcotics that was taking place by confirmed gang members. Most often these narcotic investigations were a combined effort of several law enforcement agencies working on a targeted gang's criminal activity. For example, most long-term investigations were the results of Title III wiretaps and surveillance done with local drug task forces and with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) task forces. These investigations involve gangs in the state of Minnesota or gangs that are bringing their criminal activity into the state from other areas. Narcotic investigation in not the major emphasis of the MGSF as shown by the breakdown of crimes investigated by each Region on pages of this report.

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE

As part of its' original anti-gang initiative, the 1997 legislature directed that a statewide computer system be developed that could track gangs and the number of "*confirmed gang members*" in the state of Minnesota. This system, the Pointer File, has been a useful tool for law enforcement, officer safety, and the judiciary.

The BCA was originally given the task of creating the statewide system that is now currently operating out of the Metro region office in St. Paul. Julie Barrows, a Criminal Intelligence Analyst employed by the MGSF, is responsible for this operation.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 299C.091, subd.2, a law enforcement agency may submit data on an individual to the criminal gang investigative data system, the Pointer File, only if the agency obtains and maintains the following documentation:

a. That the individual is 14 years of age or older;
b. That the individual has been convicted of a gross misdemeanor or felony or has been adjudicated or has a stayed adjudication as a juvenile for an offense that would be a gross misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult; and
c. That the individual has met at least three of the criteria or identifying characteristics of gang membership developed by the Criminal Gang Oversight Council.

The ten-point criteria developed by the Criminal Gang Oversight Council includes:

1. Admits gang membership or association.
2. Is observed to associate on a regular basis with known gang members.
3. Has tattoos indicating gang membership.
4. Wears gang symbols to identify with a specific gang.
5. Is in a photograph with known gang members and/or using gang-related hand signs.
6. Name is on a gang document, hit list, or gang related graffiti.
7. Is identified as a gang member by a reliable source.
8. Arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates.
9. Corresponds with known gang members or writes and/or receives correspondence about gang activities.
10. Writes about gang (graffiti) on walls, books and paper.

In an effort to maintain the success of the Pointer File we regularly audit the information it contains. We check on accuracy of information and also to see that gang members who have not had contact with the police, in the past three years, are purged from the file.

Two audits were conducted during the year 2002. Several agencies were contacted regarding their documentation on file by doing a random sample of confirmed gang members. Ten percent, or a minimum of two gang member files, whichever was greater, were randomly selected from the agency's total number of entries in the year 2002. A letter explaining the audit process and an affidavit was sent to the out state regional

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

commanders. The commanders then reviewed their selected files for accuracy and completeness, signed the affidavit and returned it to the analyst at the MGSF. The analyst at the MGSF reviewed the selected files at DOC and the Metro region.

The results of the audit were very encouraging. Out of 40 files audited during the two audits conducted during 2002, all 40 had the necessary documentation. This is a 100% success rate! The results show that the Pointer File helps the MGSF succeed in one of its missions: to obtain information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies in the state.

Currently, there are **2360 "confirmed gang members"** that have been entered into the Pointer File from throughout the state of Minnesota. A statistical breakdown through the year **2002** is as follows:

Race			Gender		
Asian	144	(6.1%)	Female	30	(1.3%)
Black	1384	(58.6%)			
Indian	151	(6.4%)	Male	2330	(98.7%)
White	669	(28.4%)			
Unknown	12	(0.5%)			

NOTE:
There were 1,348 confirmed gang members in the Pointer File in 2001. This was an increase over 2000 by 226 gang members. In 2002, there were 2360 gang members in the Pointer File. This is an increase over 2001 by 1012 gang members. The following breakdown by race illustrates that the increase is fairly consistent across all racial groups.

1999		2000		2001	
Asian 67	(7.29%)	Asian 77	(6.86%)	Asian 83	(6.16%)
Black 536	(58.32%)	Black 672	(59.89%)	Black 800	(59.35%)
Indian 49	(5.33%)	Indian 67	(5.97%)	Indian 81	(6.0%)
White 265	(28.84%)	White 302	(26.92%)	White 379	(28.12%)
Unknown 2	(0.22%)	Unknown 4	(0.36%)	Unknown 5	(0.37%)

Total Number of Gang Names in the Gang Pointer File: 148
Using the criteria that has been previously discussed, it has been determined that at the end of **2002** there were **148** gangs that have been identified in the State of Minnesota that have, as members, at least one **"confirmed gang member"**. The list that has been developed indicates the number of confirmed gang members in each gang as well as an indication of the race and/or ethnicity makeup of each gang.

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

Gang Definition

A gang is defined by Minnesota Statute.609.229 as:

1. An ongoing organization, association or group.

2. Including three or more persons.

3. Having a common name or common identifying symbol.

4. One of the primary activities of the gang is to commit crimes under Minn. Stat. 609.11 sub 9 (violent felony type crimes).

5. Includes members who individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.

Obviously the numbers of confirmed gang members listed in the Gang Pointer File are not the total number of gang members living or operating in the state of Minnesota. Intelligence shows that there are many more gang members involved in criminal activity here. These are, however, the numbers generated to date using the model that was established in 1997 to keep track of and identify "confirmed gang members" in the state.

The following three pages is the list of gangs in the Pointer File and the location of the agency that entered the information into the system.

MN Gang Pointer File

January 17, 2003

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
2	18th Street Gang	W	2								
1	210 Thugs	W	1								
3	26 Gangster Disciples	B	3								
14	4 Corner Hustlers	B	12				1			1	
1	5 Percenters	B	1								
1	510 Mossy Clique	W	1								
4	52 Broadway Crips	B	4								
2	603 Crips	B	2								
7	612 Hardcore (Hmong)	A	7								
1	ABK (Hmong)	A	1								
1	ACK (Hmong)	A	1								
20	Almighty Vice Lords	B	19							1	
4	Aryan Brotherhood	W	4								
1	Aryan Family	W	1								
1	Asian Blood (Hmong)	A	1								
1	Asian Crip Girls (Hmong)	A	1								
11	Asian Crips (Hmong)	A	9							2	
1	Asian Love (Hmong)	A	1								
2	Baby Gangster Crips (Cambodian)	A	2								
1	BL-38 Aquitas	H	1								
14	Black Disciples	B	10							4	
10	Black Gangsters	B	6				4				
89	Black P.Stones	B	70				9	2		8	
1	Black Souls	B	1								
1	Blood Stone Villians	W	1								
36	Bloods	M	24				2	8		2	
19	Bogus Boys Crew	B	19								
10	Brown For Life	H	7			3					
1	BPM (Motorcycle)	W					1				
3	Cobras (Hmong)	A	3								
38	Conservative Vice Lords	B	33				4			1	
10	Crazy Ass Gangsters	B	10								
1	Crazy Bloods (Hmong)	A	1								
1	Crazy Brother Clan	A						1			
1	Cretin Street Gang	W	1								
85	Crips	B	73		1		3	5	1	2	
2	Death Warriors	I	2								
22	Detroit Boys	B	22								
1	East Side 13	W							1		
1	East Side Bloods (Cambodian)	A	1								
8	East Side GS	W	8								
1	East Side Phoenix Crips	W			1						
3	El Forastero (Motorcycle)	W	2				1				
1	El Rukn	B	1								
29	Family Mob	B	29								
1	Fresno Bulldogs	H							1		
641	Gangster Disciples	M	538	1			41	42		19	
2	GLOC (Hmong)	A	2								
13	Hell's Angels (Motorcycle)	W	11				1	1			
10	Hell's Outcasts (Motorcycle)	W	10								
1	Hermandad De Pistoleros	H	1								
6	Hill Top Hustlers	B	6								
2	Hmong Pride	A	2								
4	Hoover Deuce Crips	M	1		3						
5	Hound Boss Players	W	1							4	
1	Hustler Crips	M			1						
1	Immortal Bloods (Hmong)	A	1								
8	Imperial Gangster Disciples	M	6				2				

MN Gang Pointer File

January 17, 2003

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
1	Insane Deuce	M					1				
2	Insane Gangster Disciples	M	1				1				
4	Insane Spanish Cobras	M	4								
30	Insane Vice Lords	B	16				12			2	
3	Jr Bloods (Hmong)	A						3			
2	Klu Klux Klan (Racist)	W	2								
9	Lao Boyz	A	8							1	
3	Latin Gangster Disciples	H	3								
125	Latin Kings	H	91		1		7	4	1	3	18
1	Latin Queens	H	1								
1	LG (Hmong)	A	1								
1	Los Quientas Locas	H						1			
2	Los Valientes (Motorcycle)	W	2								
3	M&M (Hmong)	A	3								
1	Mafia Insance Vice Lords	M					1				
1	Mafia Pride (Hmong)	A	1								
2	Maniac Latin Disciples	H	2								
1	Mara Salvatrucha	H	1								
13	Master Players	W						13			
7	Masters of Destruction (Hmong)	A	7								
1	Mexican Mafia	H							1		
43	Mickey Cobra Stones	B	29				2			12	
1	Minneapolis Boys (Vietnamese)	A	1								
1	Montebello Park Crips	W	1								
1	National Socialist Mvmt	W								1	
8	Native Gangster Disciples	I	8								
44	Native Mob	I	36				8				
1	Native Rose	I					1				
3	Native Vice Lords	I	3								
1	Natoma Boyz (Vietnamese)	A	1								
1	New Youngster Kings	W						1			
17	Nike Mob	B	17								
1	No Limit Boys (Vietnamese)	A	1								
2	Nortenos	H							2		
1	Northern Hammer Skins	W	1								
6	OMB (Hmong)	A	6								
3	Orchestra Albany	H	2				1				
1	Oriental Boys Society (Hmong)	A	1								
8	Oriental Ruthless Boys (Hmong)	A	8								
1	Original Crip Disciples (Hmong)	A								1	
5	Peckerwoods (Racist)	W	5								
3	Piru Bloods (Cambodian)	A	2							1	
1	PJ Watts	B	1								
4	Posse (Hmong)	A	4								
64	Prison Motorcycle Brthrhd	W	64								
5	Purple Brothers (Hmong)	A	5								
7	Raymond Ave Crips	B	7								
16	Red Cambodian Bloods	A						16			
1	Red Soldier Bloods	A	1								
1	Renegade Vice Lords	I		1							
1	Rollin 20's Crips	B								1	
2	Rollin 30's Crips	B	1				1				
16	Rollin 30's Bloods	B	16								
81	Rollin 60's Crips	B	79				1			1	
11	Rollin 90's Crips	B	11								
9	Royal Cambodian Bloods	A	9								
1	Ruthless Indian Players	I	1								
2	Satan's Disciples	H	2								

MN Gang Pointer File

January 17, 2003

#	Gang Name	Race	Metro	Bemidji	Clay Co	Crookston	Duluth	Olmsted	Rice	St Cloud	Willmar
64	Shotgun Crips	B	64								
1	Sisters of the Struggle	B	1								
8	Six Mob Gangsters	B	8								
22	Skinheads (Racist)	W	18				2			2	
2	Skyline Piru Bloods (Cambodian)	A			2						
1	Sons of Samoan	PI	1								
18	Sons of Silence (Motorcycle)	W	1					17			
1	Southside Sur 13	H			1						
1	St Paul Gangsters	B	1								
1	Strictly Performance	A	1								
16	Surenos 13	H	15					1			
1	Texas Chicano Brthrhd	H	1								
1	Themadones	W	1								
5	Thunderbirds Outlaw Motorcycle	W	1				4				
9	Tiny Man Crew (Hmong)	A	9								
3	Traveling Vice Lords	B	3								
2	Tre Duece Clique	B	2								
2	TRG (Cambodian)	A	2								
1	Tri-City Bombers	H	1								
1	Tyson Mob	B	1								
7	Unknown Vice Lords	B	6				1				
1	Vagos Motorcycle Gang	W					1				
1	Varrio Fallbrook Locas 13	H	1								
6	Vatos Locos	H	6								
271	Vice Lords	B	206	1			36	16		12	
1	Victoria Park Locos	H						1			
2	Vietnamese Crazy Boyz	A	2								
6	Villa Lobos	W	1		5						
17	West Side Crips	M									17
118	White Power (Racist)	W	97				14	6		1	
15	White Supremacists (Racist)	W	15								
6	White Tiger (Hmong)	A	6								
2360	Total Gang Members		1914	3	15	3	163	138	7	82	35
148	Total Gangs										

THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

Gang Pointer File Information Generated by Law Enforcement Inquiry

As law enforcement officers make routine traffic stops around the state, they will automatically be notified if they run a check on a "confirmed gang member" that is currently in the Gang Pointer File. This information is not only an officer safety warning but it also assists the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in tracking the movement of these "confirmed gang members" around the state. It is an interesting fact that during the year **2002** there were **14,168** hits indicating a confirmed gang member was stopped at some location by a law enforcement officer in the state of Minnesota. However, the total number of gang members in the system is only at **2360 confirmed gang members**. It is obvious these gang members are very mobile as they are involved in the criminal activity in the state of Minnesota.

As an officer in the field runs a check of an individual who is listed as a confirmed gang member in the Pointer File, he or she will receive the following information:

009522 BCJ324 FEB 02 2002 08:52:57 FEB 02 2002 08:53:17
****** WARNING – MINNESOTA CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER ******
THIS INFORMATION ALONE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE DETENTION, SEARCH OR ARREST OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR THE SEARCH OF ANY VEHICLE OR DWELLING
SCR/100. ORI/MNO621800. NAM/XXXXX CHARLES LAMONT. MIN/41943
DOB/19770210. SEX/M. RAC/B. HGT/600. WGT/212. EYE/BRO. HAI/BLK. DOE/20000926.
MNK/MONSTER. FBI/298864AB5.
OCA/MGSFMETRO. EOR/1,2,8.
CVS/FE. SID/MN95013413.
GNG/FAMILY MOB. SGP/NON KNOWN.
POC/MGSF METRO 651-917-4800. 19981124.
MIS/CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS 2 AND WEAPON VIOLATION REMOVAL SERIAL NUMBER, USE CAUTION.

When the officer runs a check, it then generates the following information back to the Metro region indicating where and when the gang member was stopped and which agency was involved in the stop:

TO: GSF-01592 Tue FEB 02, 2002 08:52:57 CZQDOLZMKRJ8
FROM: QDRQDW Tue FEB 02, 2002 08:53:17
MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE NOTIFICAITON OF INQUIRY
*
THE FOLLOWING GANG MEMBER YOUR AGENCY ENTERED INTO THE MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE HAS BEEN INQUIRED UPON
*
NAM/LAMONT< CHARLES DOB/19770210 MIN/109863.
INQUIRED UPON BY ORI/MN00200C1
*
YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS NOTIFICATION BECAUSE UPON ENTRY OF THE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL. THE NOA (NOTIFY OF ALL HITS) INDICATOR WAS TURNED ON. MARKED "Y".

HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

In 1997, the Legislature originally funded a two-year multi-agency anti-gang initiative. The 2000 Legislature again refunded this initiative for another 18 months. Then in 2001, the Legislature funded the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in order to continue its anti-gang program through the 2002-2003 fiscal years. Also in 2001, a base was created in the state budget in order to fund the program into the 2004-2005 fiscal years.

The original law also created an advisory council that was in charge of creating a statewide law enforcement strike force to deal with the increasing violence that gang crimes were inflicting on the citizens of Minnesota. That advisory group was named the Criminal Gang Oversight Council.

The Council currently includes the following members and their designees:

Public Safety Commissioner – Rich Stanek
Commissioner of Corrections – Joan Fabian
Superintendent of the BCA – Michael Campion
Minnesota Attorney General – Mike Hatch
Ramsey County Sheriff – Bob Fletcher
Chief of Police of the St. Paul Police Department – William Finney
Chief of Police of the Minneapolis Police Department – Robert Olson (current Chair)
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (metro) – Jim Frank (Washington County)
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (outstate) – Jim McMahon (Benton County)
St. Cloud Police Chief – Dennis Ballantine
Duluth Police Chief – Roger Waller
St. Louis County Sheriff – Ross Litman
Olmsted County Sheriff – Steve Borchardt (current Assistant Chair)
A Representative of the MN Chief's of Police Assn. – Gary Smith (Northfield)
Hennepin County Sheriff – Pat McGowan

The Criminal Gang Oversight Council is the administrative body that ultimately directs the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. The Council selected Ron Ryan, a St. Paul Police Commander, to be the Statewide Commander. Six separate regions were originally created covering the state with investigators concentrating on fighting gang-related crime. There were originally 70 employees assigned to the MGSF throughout the state. The largest group was the Metro region that employed 40 people.

Currently there are five regions in the state with 50 employees assigned throughout the state. There are 34 people assigned to the Metro region.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Originally an agency was eligible for up to 75% reimbursement of an officer's salary and benefits for a maximum of four officers. Additional officers may be part of the Strike Force, however, reimbursement would be for overtime costs only, not to exceed $8,400 annually per officer.

Local agencies must hire other officers to replace the officers assigned to the Strike Force and agree to a two-year commitment to the project.

Some local agencies, not members of the MGSF, were awarded grants for expanding local capacity for investigating gang activity. These were awarded after the agencies submitted a detailed plan to the Oversight Council.

In order to create a region within the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, at least three separate agencies had to band together in forming a partnership region.

The legislature originally allotted $6.5 million for startup of the two-year program. $5,449,000 was the amount budgeted for operating the MGSF for 1998 and 1999. The remaining monies were for startup costs, grants for expanding local capacity, and establishing a computerized statewide system of "confirmed gang members", the Criminal Gang Pointer File.

During the 2001 Legislative session, the operating budget for the MGSF was reduced to **$4,690,000**. Therefore, agencies contributing reimbursement officers received noticeably less grant money for fiscal years 2002-2003. **NOTE:** During the 2002 legislative session, we were cut $1,660,000, then again on January 15, 2003, another $39,000 was cut from the MGSF budget. During a recent funding meeting the Oversight Council determined the MGSF needed the $4,690,000 funding reinstated in order to support the grants to local law enforcement at the current level for fiscal years 2004-2005.

NOTE: Agencies who receive grants to send officers to their regional strike forces also remain financially involved in the day-to-day operations. For example, each officer arrives with his/her basic law enforcement tools. If an officer, who is a reimbursement officer, works overtime he or she is paid by their home agency. Fuel for the vehicles is also paid for by the local agencies. Some of the larger departments are able to contribute more. For example, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department has been giving computer system support, upgrading and repairing of equipment. The St. Paul Police Department has contributed an extra-unmarked squad that is used during street level operations. The Minneapolis Police Department accepts no reimbursement grants, and pays the salaries and benefits for all of their eight officers assigned. They are reimbursed only for the overtime their officers work, not to exceed $8,400 per person per year. Smaller communities, such as Marshall, who find it difficult to pay the required support of the investigators assigned, actually accept money from neighboring communities so they can have an active MGSF investigator working on gang crimes in their area.

These examples show that Minnesota's strategy to combat the criminal activities caused by gangs is truly a collaborative effort by law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Minnesota.

MGSF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS DURING 2002

Legislative Auditor Financial Audit May 2002

- No findings of problems or irregularities.

Administration Review of Local Grants September 2002
(This was conducted by staff from the Office of Drug Policy.)

- Overall well managed.

Quality Assurance Audit/Assessment Report March 2002
(This independent audit was requested by the Oversight Council and conducted by the Minneapolis Police Department Quality Assurance Unit.)

- Found to be operating in a very efficient and effective manner.

Numerous thank you letters acknowledging successful investigations completed by MGSF investigators

- These letters submitted by police chiefs and/or local law enforcement officials who requested help dealing with gang crimes. (Detailed information available upon request.)

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

In the year 2002, Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch has continued to show his commitment to gang investigation and prosecution by committing additional resources to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. Instead of the one assistant attorney general required by statute to advise the MGSF, he has, for the past two years, assigned three prosecutors to work with and advise the Strike Force officers.

Deputy Attorney General Pete Orput and Deputy Attorney General Hilary Caligiuri, along with Assistant Attorney General Brent Wartner, have an on-site office at the Strike Force Metro regional office where they work with and advise the Strike Force officers. Brent's time is dedicated exclusively to the prosecution of gang crimes throughout the state.

Prosecutions

Over the course of the past year, the three prosecutors assigned to the MGSF have worked on gang cases in seven counties – Stearns, Polk, Wright, St. Louis, Carver, Nobles, and Goodhue. All of these cases have involved MGSF investigators. The three prosecutors prosecuted the following cases in 2002:

- A three-defendant narcotics distribution case involving Gangster Disciples originally from Indiana and Chicago whom operated out of the Duluth area (St. Louis County) and later in Wright County.

- A 10-defendant gang homicide case involving a gang retaliation shooting between the Latin Kings of Chaska/Minneapolis against Laos Boys gang members. Three defendants were charged with murder and seven were charged as accomplices (Carver County).

- An 11-defendant racketeering case against Mickey Cobras and Black P Stones from Chicago who came to St. Cloud and Fargo/Moorhead to push crack cocaine without local competition (Stearns County).

- A first-degree murder case involving six defendants who were homegrown Gangster Disciples who worked for a carnival in Grand Forks, North Dakota (Polk County).

- A two-defendant attempted murder for benefit of a gang case, arising from a fight between Asian Crip and Laos Bloods in Worthington, Minnesota that resulted in a shooting at a party (Nobles County).

- A possession of explosive device and firearms at the Goodhue County Courthouse by a member of a white militia group that call the membership Sovereigns or Constitutionalists (Goodhue County).

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT cont.

Investigations

Over the course of the past year, the three prosecutors assigned to the MGSF have also actively worked on gang investigations, along with investigators assigned to the MGSF, in six counties – St. Louis, Cass, Washington, Mower, Wright and Olmsted. The three prosecutors worked on the following investigations in 2002:

- Juvenile Drug Overdose (Cass County). They worked closely with the Cass County Attorney's Office to review the death of a 16-year-old Native American girl as a result of a drug overdose. The case involves Native American Gangster Disciples.

- Duluth Gang Prostitution Ring (St. Louis County). They worked closely with the MGSF Northeast Office to develop a racketeering case against numerous Gangster Disciples from Indiana and Chicago who have operated a narcotics distribution and prostitution ring in the Duluth area. Presently, the case is being prosecuted as a narcotics case and may develop into a racketeering case.

- Native American Gang Assault Investigation (Wright County). The metro office of the MGSF assisted Wright County law enforcement investigate a stabbing at a party involving gang members from the Gangster Disciples and Native Mob.

- DOC White Power Drug Distribution Conspiracy (Washington County). The metro office of the MGSF has been assisting the Department of Corrections Special Investigations Unit in investigating a drug ring, led by White Power gang members, using a sophisticated method to smuggle marijuana into MCF-Stillwater.

- White Supremacist Drug Distribution Investigation (Mower County). Patrick Flanagan, an Assistant County Attorney with the Mower County Attorney's Office, contacted Pete and Hilary for assistance in a White Supremacist drug distribution investigation that is being conducted in Austin by local law enforcement. A White Supremacist gang out of Riverside, California called IE (Peckerwoods) has been recruiting local juveniles in Austin, Minnesota for the purpose of trading narcotics for firearms. The firearms are transported back to California for sale.

- Gang Homicide Drive By Shooting Investigation (Olmsted County). The MGSF Metro office, along with the AG Office, assisted Jim Martison with the Olmsted County Attorney's Office prepare gang expert testimony in the trial of a gang drive by homicide that was held in September. The AGO/MGSF provided legal memoranda and other legal research assistance to Martinson as he prepared for the hearing.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT cont.

Training

Part of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force mission is to provide training to law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the state. Our MGSF prosecutors, over the course of the last year, have made more than 25 presentations that included local community groups, in-service training for Strike Force investigators, and presented training on the gang crimes statute to officers around the state. In January, the MGSF, along with our prosecutors and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office organized a one-day course on gang crime prosecution.

Special Projects

In addition to handling prosecutions, the Attorney General's Office assists the MGSF on other matters such as:

- Data Practices Requests. They work closely with MGSF regarding advice on data practices requests. Also, they respond to subpoenas duces tecum, to protect the confidentiality of the private data contained in MGSF gang investigation files.

- MGSF Forfeitures. AG Attorneys work closely with MGSF investigators regarding advice on criminal forfeitures and handle all the court proceedings relating to the forfeiture of items lawfully seized in a criminal investigation. Assistant Attorney General Jim Early handles all the Metro region forfeitures exclusively.

- Legislation. They work closely with MGSF on proposed gang legislation and currently are working on three proposals; solicitation of juvenile to join a gang, building fortifications, and hidden compartments.

Legal Advice

Deputy Attorney General Hilary Lindell Caligiuri is the legal council to the Minnesota Criminal Gang Oversight Council. In that capacity, Hilary attends Oversight Council meetings and gives legal advice to the council as needed.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT/ COUNCILS OF COLOR

Community Liaison

Another part of the MGSF mission is to ensure the community receives information about plans, activities, and decisions of the MGSF. Deputy Attorney General Hilary Lindell Caligiuri also serves as a liaison between the Strike Force and the Councils of Color, which include the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, the Council on Black Minnesotans, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, and the Indian Affairs Council. Hilary schedules regular meetings with the Councils of Color, which are attended by Regional Commanders and staff from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Major issues that have been addressed by the Councils of Color include:

- What is a "confirmed gang member"? The ten point criteria were explained as well as explaining that our law enforcement efforts were geared to "criminal activity" not physical appearances of people.
- Racial statistics for persons entered in the Statewide Computer System.
- Identifying Gang Strike Force Members, it was agreed that all members will carry MGSF ID cards and wear distinctive maroon and gold raid jackets during operations.
- The Minnesota Gang Strike Force has also met with representatives of the various Councils, through out the state, when special issues arise. These are meetings outside the framework of the quarterly meetings.

MINNESOTA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

BCA Superintendent Michael Campion remains very supportive of the efforts and the mission of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in this, our fifth year of operation.

The BCA originally developed the program for the Minnesota Gang Pointer File, the system that tracks confirmed gang members in the state of Minnesota, and continues to physically house the computer system that provides this important information to law enforcement officers and prosecutors through out the state. The Gang Pointer File also continues to be an excellent officer safety tool for street officers, throughout the state, as they make daily traffic stops.

The Superintendent currently has four agents assigned to MGSF regions throughout the state who work as investigators with local MGSF investigators. Senior Special Agent John Boulger, who is the Metro Region, Deputy Commander acts as the liaison for our contacts with all the federal agencies that the Minnesota Gang Strike Force works with. Agent Boulger has also been working closely with the US Attorneys Office during 2002 providing information and training that they have requested regarding Native American gangs in the state.

The MGSF also uses the BCA crime lab for storage and the processing of drug evidence. The lab has also assisted the MGSF in firearms identification this past year during several of our investigations. In one instance they were able to examine a handgun, that was suspected as the murder weapon in a South St Paul homicide, and get ballistics results back to investigators in less then a day.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

The US Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, under the leadership of Thomas Heffelfinger, has been very helpful and committed to working with the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in helping to address violent gang crimes.

The MGSF and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue efforts to locate Hopeton Brown. Brown is on the FBI's ten most wanted list. "America's Most Wanted" featured Brown, a gang member, who killed a St Paul man and left his girlfriend for dead as part of a drug conspiracy. In 1999 he was indicted by a federal grand jury with two other codefendants for drug conspiracy, carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, murder in relation to a drug trafficking crime, attempted murder of a witness. This was a "cold case" homicide adopted by the MGSF. Once adopted, the case was assigned to two lead investigators at the Strike Force, both veteran investigators; one from the St. Paul Police Department and the other from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The two worked on the case for over two years before they brought it to a successful conclusion.

The US Attorney's Office has prosecuted multiple cases in federal court for the MGSF during the year 2002. Several of these cases will be highlighted at the end of this report, under the review of selected investigations, where local regional investigators collaborated with the various federal agencies during the successful investigations of the crimes committed by gang members.

MGSF investigators have worked closely with the US Attorney's Office during 2002 on some of their "weed and seed" initiatives. These are federally funded programs that are set up to reduce crime in particular areas. "Project Safe Neighborhood" is one such program where the MGSF has provided training and intelligence regarding Native American gangs. Much of this training was provided to law enforcement in northern Minnesota near or around several Indian Reservations. Project Safe Neighborhood is designed to reduce gun violence in these areas.

Along with major investigations, the Metro region of the MGSF has also partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office in some crime prevention projects. One example is the their partnership in producing a CD titled Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. The CD was sent to 750 public and private schools in the area and has been used at a large rally at the Target Center. It is part of the annual "Day of National Concern". On this day, students talk about gun violence and organize pledge rallies where students sign pledges against gun violence.

A REVIEW OF SOME SELECTED 2002 INVESTIGATIONS BY REGION

The following are selected summaries of completed investigations. It is not meant to be a complete list of MGSF investigations; these are examples from each of the regions as to the types of investigations and types of illegal activities being committed by the different criminal gangs in their areas.

Metro Region

Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer

In August of 2002, investigators were working a saturation detail in North Minneapolis where they were stopping and identifying gang members and checking them for warrants. Two Metro investigators, Bautista and Pinoniemi, actually drove into the intersection on Broadway at James where a shooting was taking place. The man shooting was a Rolling 60's Crip gang member who was shooting at a rival gang member who was driving an auto out of the intersection.

When the suspect observed the officers he stopped and pointed his handgun at them, as they were still-seated in their squad. Officers fired two missed shots at the suspect as they tried to exit their squad. The officers chased the suspect on foot and apprehended him. He had thrown a 9mm handgun on top of a building and he also had a 1/8-ounce of crack cocaine in his pocket when he was arrested.

Minneapolis Police Department uniformed officers helped process the scene. They collected over a dozen empty shell casings from the middle of the intersection. MGSF officers were able to locate a home across the street where two bullet slugs had entered the dwelling and narrowly missed a female resident who was seated at her living room table. They also identified several small children playing in the area who were in the direct line of fire; the shots actually went over their heads before entering the house.

Following the testimony of Officer Pinoniemi during a pretrial hearing, the confirmed gang member shooting suspect decided to plead guilty for the assault on a police officer and to felon in possession of a firearm. The suspect has to serve 10-full years before he is eligible for parole.

Illegal Sales of Firearms

Because of the increasing numbers of handguns found in the possession of gang members when they are arrested, the Metro MGSF started looking at the sales of handguns in the area.

During the summer of 2002, investigators received information regarding multiple gun purchases made by a resident of Minneapolis. The man had purchased over fifty handguns from a variety of legitimate gun stores in the metro area. He then reported them stolen under suspicious circumstances. So the MGSF started checking to see if any of the guns had been recovered.

It was determined that the suspect had been providing firearms to gang members and other prohibited persons. Seven of his handguns have turned-up at the time of this report. Two have been found in Chicago; one was tossed out of a vehicle by a gang member who was being pursued by the Chicago Police Department Gang Unit. Five have been found by the Minneapolis Police Department; one was dropped on the north-side after a Crip gang member was arrested for shooting a rival gang member four times with one of the guns; a man who is a convicted felon beat his estranged wife in the head with one; and officers found three during traffic stops of gang members.

In August the man purchased twenty more handguns and MGSF, with the assistance of the A.T.F., found he was planning another multiple purchase. Investigators set-up surveillance after the man bought handguns while accompanied by his two-year-old son and two other males. The two males were gang members who were felons and prohibited from possessing firearms. A fingerprint from one of the gang members was found on one of the recently purchased guns after a car stop was made.

In November, a federal grand jury indicted the man on thirty-three counts of knowingly making false statements to federally licensed firearms dealers. The indictment covered sixty-one handguns purchased by the defendant.

Rape/Prostitution of Juveniles

Metro investigators have investigated at least three separate cases involving Hmong gang members, who have been involved in the rapes and prostitution of young Hmong girls, ages 12 to 16 years of age. These cases would probably never have been found-out had it not been that MGSF investigators were so closely involved with the Hmong community and the gangs that they track.

The Asian King Posse/116 (AKP), a well-known Asian street gang who previously had been investigated in Detroit, Michigan during 2000 for transporting minors for the purpose of prostitution, was one of the gangs that have been charged.

Four victims, all 14-years of age, were often forced into gang members' vehicles with threats of violence. They were then taken to two particular houses, one in St. Paul and the other in Minneapolis. They would be held there as numerous older Hmong men would arrive and pay money to have sex with the girls.

To date, six of these gang members have been charged with numerous crimes including Promoting the Prostitution of a Minor, CSC, etc. The leader of the gang is awaiting trial and is being held on $100,000 bail.

The Tiny Man Crew (TMC) is another Hmong gang that was involved in a massive crime wave in the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin this past summer. It included robberies, burglaries, gang rapes and prostitution.

During their crime sprees, they would pickup young girls, rape them repeatedly and then leave them and find new juvenile females for there unwanted sexual advances. Four

young girls were identified as victims of the TMC rapes. One 15-year-old was raped by up to eight gang members.

To date, nine gang members have pled guilty to a variety of charges that include Criminal Sexual Conduct, Aggravated Robbery, Burglary, and Criminal Sexual Conduct Committed for the Benefit of a Gang. One TMC gang member is still awaiting trial for the above charges. His bail is set at $500,000.

The third case involved a street gang called Gangster Local Oriental Crew (GLOC). Four young Hmong girls, 12 to 14 years of age, were found to be runaways. A deputy brought them to the MGSF after he learned a 21-year-old gang member was housing them giving them food and shelter. While they would stay there, he would force sexual intercourse on them.

A subsequent search warrant at the suspect's residence revealed he had been making home video sex movies with these young Hmong children. It was also found that the suspect had been a previous sex offender and was on probation for a CSCIII. His probation has been revoked and he was sentenced to 18-months prison for violating his probation while he awaits trial on above crimes.

In each of these cases, these young Hmong girls had to be encouraged to make a complaint against their rapists. Even after the suspects were in jail the girls would often explain they couldn't because their lives would be ruined, because of the beliefs in their culture, if their families found out what had happened to them.

Narcotics RICO "Operation Sunrise"

Metro investigators assisted the St. Paul Police Department and the D.E.A. with an investigation into the narcotic activities of three gangs operating in the Frog Town area of St. Paul. The area had become overrun with members of the Chicago based Gangster Disciples and the Minneapolis based Bogus Boyz, along with a St. Paul gang named the Lower Town Thugs. The gang members had actually taken over houses, forced out renters, imported crack cocaine and established distribution networks. They had recruited children as young as 12 to help sell their drugs.

Operation Sunrise, as it was called, was a 30-day federally funded "weed and seed" project. Metro investigators assisted with technical advice and assistance along with documenting the numbers of confirmed gang members involved in the drug dealing. Metro investigators also assisted in identifying gang members for prosecution after they were videotaped during surveillance. There were approximately 80 defendants that were identified. Various degrees of drug charges were filed against 70 of these people. Ramsey County charged nine defendants under the state RICO statute. The statute carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a million dollars fine, or both.

Narcotics/Weapons Violations

In January of 2001 Metro investigators received information that a member of the Chicago based "Gangster Disciples" was selling crack cocaine in the Powderhorn Park area and that the gang member was a suspect in five gang and narcotics related homicides in the Minneapolis area.

Investigators, after cultivating an informant who could purchase cocaine from the suspect, started a lengthy productive investigation. It was determined that the suspect was about to retaliate against a person for an unrelated issue. So the Metro investigators, after they had made several controlled purchases of crack cocaine, decided it was time to take action against the suspect. In August of 2001 a search warrant was drafted for three addresses related to the suspect and his associates. Investigators seized one and half ounces of crack and a handgun from the suspect.

In March 2002, while the suspect was awaiting a court trial, investigators obtained information that helped arrest the suspect again. This time the suspect and his associate were arrested while driving and in his possession he had three ounces of crack cocaine and a loaded SKS assault rifle. Both were indicted in federal court on a seven (7) count indictment. They have both pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

<u>Northeast Region</u>

Prostitution/Narcotics/Assaults

During the spring of 1999 investigators began receiving information of a "Gangster Disciple" gang member named "Boo" becoming criminally active in Northeast Minnesota. As they complied information over three years, they learned who Boo was and that he was a confirmed gang member in the state of Minnesota. Boo developed himself into a force in the world of local organized crime, becoming involved in trafficking large quantities of drugs from Gary Indiana and Chicago Illinois. Eventually he diversified his criminal enterprise to include; prostitution, assaults, weapons possession and participated in an open shootout in downtown Duluth. All this criminal activity resulted in a few charges but generally were followed by not guilty verdicts. Boo came to believe he was invincible as his growing criminal and gang-influenced organization infiltrated the city of Duluth and the surrounding areas.

Over the next three and half years Investigator Jenkins investigated the activities of Boo and his associates. N/E investigators connected with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office and planned for a RICO prosecution. Investigators continued to gather information and secretly interviewed Boo's associates as they developed the case proving his criminal enterprise. Then in August of 2002 investigators made their first overt strike at Boo's RICO prosecution. Eighty police officers from nineteen agencies around the state converged on the Duluth area and simultaneously executed thirteen search warrants, They gathered large amounts of records, two vehicles and ten ounces of cocaine.

Then in November of 2002 investigators were able to introduce an undercover police officer to Boo and his associates. Investigators collaborated with Metro and Central MGSF officers, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents, and members of the

Anoka/Hennepin Drug Task Force. On four occasions Boo and an associate conspired to deliver cocaine and crack cocaine to the under cover officer. In December as Boo was delivering the last of seven ounces of cocaine he was arrested with his associate. The arrest was followed by another search warrant at his apartment which produced $15,000 in cash , a 9mm hand gun, and more records pertinent to the prosecution. The Attorney General's prosecutors who handle cases for the MGSF are currently planning their case and are planning to charge at least eight more of the gang members in this conspiracy.

Weapons/Manufacturing of Methamphetamine

Over the past two years investigators have been investigating what appeared to be a truce by rival gang members, for the purpose of selling large amounts of methamphetamine, that some of the gang members were also suspected of manufacturing in the Duluth area. As part of the investigation investigators had been interviewing informants as well as monitoring jail phone calls. They discovered the residences of the suspects were well fortified, to keep police out, as well as being rigged with surveillance cameras. Investigators also found the gang members were all armed with automatic weapons.

In June N/E investigators with the help of the BCA, Minnesota State Patrol, Cloquet PD, and the Duluth PD executed several search warrants on suspected gang members. The gang member's residences that were targeted included; white supremists/"Hells Angels", "Latin Kings", and "Gangster Disciples". Following the search warrants five persons were charged for various charges from the evidence that was recovered. Evidence included a substantial amount of crystal methamphetamine, marijuana, several handguns, a sawed off shotgun, and a fully automatic machine gun. The Minneapolis office of the ATF is assisting with federal indictments regarding the prohibited firearms.

Aggravated Assault

Earlier this year the Duluth PD responded to a call at St Mary's Hospital regarding a patient in the emergency room who had been severely beaten. After an investigation it was determined that the injuries were the result of three confirmed "Vice Lord" gang members attacking the victim who was probably a rival gang member. The police were able to get the three charged with 3rd Degree Assault. During the pretrial preparation investigators from the MGSF were called to assist. Eventually the charges were amended to 3rd Degree Assault for the Benefit of the Gang. Investigator Stracek, a member of the N/E MGSF, testified as a gang expert during the trial and the three were convicted.

<u>Southeast Region</u>

Homicide

In February of 2002 investigators assisted the Rochester PD with a homicide that occurred in an upper middle class neighborhood in their city. A drive by shooting that had killed one and severely injured another was the result of an earlier fight that had occurred at a local restaurant. Asian gang members, "Baby Gangster Crips" from the Twin Cities and the "Jr Bloods" from Rochester were involved in the fight. Later in the evening the Crip gang members found the location of the Bloods and shot them as they exited a house.

The suspects who were known gang members, were only known by their "gang" nick names. Given this information S/E investigators entered this information into GANGNET, which is the statewide computer intelligence system that is maintained by the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. The suspects were immediately identified as gang members already known by Metro MGSF investigators. Photos from GANGNET were used to conduct a photo line up that positively identified the shooter and his accomplices.

Metro and Central MGSF investigators then entered the investigation after it was learned the suspect was planning to pick up his girl friend in St Paul and flee to Canada. With in only three days of the homicide three individuals were arrested even though they fled the Rochester area.

This investigation was an excellent example of the collaboration by the MGSF with local law enforcement to solve gang crimes. The Metro Region, SE Region, Central Region, along with local Rochester PD and Sheriff's deputies and the Twin City PDs and Sheriffs quickly brought this case to a successful conclusion. Two men pled guilty to 2nd Degree Murder involving a drive by shooting and a third pled guilty to 2nd Degree Unintentional Murder.

Assaults/Weapons violations/Narcotics

The Austin PD along with the Mower County Sheriffs originally initiated a narcotics investigation after a white supremacist gang member, from California moved to Lyle Minnesota and started to traffic methamphetamine, marijuana, and guns in the area. The man, a member of the "Peckerwoods", was soon learned to be very dangerous and violent. The Peckerwoods gang was organized originally in the prisons in the late 80s and then emerged on the streets as a racist white power group similar to neo-Nazi skin heads. The difference, however, the Nazi groups disavow drug use and the Peckerwoods make their money from drug and gun criminal activity.

Soon other gang members arrived from California and the Peckerwoods developed a local following among young whites in the Austin area. After the police began to target their criminal activities the gang actually retaliated against the local law enforcement by threats to law enforcement officials and assistant county attorneys. Houses of deputies were vandalized with gang graffiti as were a number of marked squad cars.

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force was asked to assist. A group was then put together that included the Metro and S/E MGSF, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, The Minnesota Attorney General's office, and the US Attorney's office to target the gang's criminal activities. The investigation involved identifying defendants in Minnesota and California, interviews of numerous witnesses, purchases of controlled substances, collection of data from hundreds of telephone calls made by the suspects and the transcription of these calls. During the course of the investigation racially motivated crimes were uncovered. Also investigators found information of the gang's use of torture as a method of intimidation, to collect drug debts and to maintain control of dealers and any one who might consider testifying against any of the gang members. Information -

was obtained that one gang member was severely beaten and actually had teeth pulled out of his mouth with a pliers when it was suggested he might be talking to the police.

A strategy to indict the Peckerwood gang members was developed. It was agreed there would be shared prosecution between the US Attorney's office, the Minnesota Attorney Generals office, and the Mower County Attorney's office. The US Attorney would deal with the California hard core gang members and the local major drug traffickers, money launderers and couriers. The Attorney General's office and Mower County would handle local prosecutions. Again, a great example of jurisdictional cooperation involving the MGSF acting as the conduit.

This case is not completed but to date the US Attorney has indicted six persons. One California Peckerwood for possession of a firearm. This person has three prior violent felonies, one involving an assault on a police officer, and is facing a minimum, mandatory fifteen year sentence. The other five, two Peckerwoods from California and three from Minnesota, were charged in a ten count indictment involving conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and conspiracy to distribute marijuana and the distribution of marijuana. The local case against the gang members is pending.

Aggravated Assault

Investigators worked on an assault case involving a group of "Master Players" gang members who assaulted a rival gang member in the city of Rochester. The victim originally had so many injuries the gang members responsible were allowed to post bail until the Mayo Clinic evaluated the extent of permanent injuries the victim had sustained.

The Master Players are a home grown Rochester gang and are generally unique to the city and Olmsted County. They got their start as a white-supremacist group. Their activity is not covert and they get into confrontations almost nightly. Although they dabble in dealing narcotics, their main criminal activity seems to be petty crimes and assaults on rival gang members and other young people in general. Gang members roam the streets flashing gang signs and when they feel someone disrespects them they are quick to react and fight. The victim of the November attack was found to have permanent injuries. Three gang members involved were convicted of 2nd Degree Assault and are awaiting sentencing.

Central Region

Drive by Shootings

During November and December of this past year, Central investigators assisted the St. Cloud Police Department investigating a series of drive by shootings. The shootings proved to be the result of a dispute between "Vice Lord" and "Tyson Mob" gang members. It is a turf battle over who will gain local power and be able to sell drugs in the St. Cloud area.

At the time of this report a safe house for the suspected shooting suspects and their firearms had been located. Warrants will soon be signed as the final link needed to bring charges, for the drive by shootings, against several Tyson Mob gang members.

Narcotics
Investigators completed a two-month investigation in April of 2002 that involved the sale of crack cocaine in the St. Cloud area. These sales were being perpetrated by various gang members that included "Gangster Disciples", "Black P Stones", and "Vice Lords" gang members.

Investigators from the Northeast region of the MGSF assisted in the sweep that started on April 1st. A total of 43 persons, the vast majority of which were gang members, were arrested for various degrees of controlled substance crimes. Seizures of approximately $10,000 in currency from drug sales, three handguns, and five vehicles were also seized as part of the case.

Narcotics
In August of 2002, investigators assisted the Stearns County Sheriff's Department on what originally began as an investigation of a stolen vehicle recovery in the city of Avon. MGSF investigators were asked to assist in surveiling the vehicle. When the vehicle was stopped it was determined the driver was a "Surenos 13" gang member from the state of Washington.
Central investigators, with the assistance of the Central Drug Task Force, served three search warrants with the information they had obtained. Two Surenos 13 gang members from Washington were arrested. They were found in possession of two pounds of methamphetamine. Their ties to Central Minnesota gang members were exposed and eventually both defendants were prosecuted and convicted in federal court.

<u>Southwest Region</u>
Homicide
In June, investigators assisted the Redwood County Sheriff's Office with a homicide that occurred on the Lower Sioux Indian Reservation. The victim was killed during a pow-wow being held near Morton, MN. It was soon learned the victim was actually a "Native Mob" confirmed gang member. He was second in command in the gang hierarchy and was the victim of an internal struggle for control of this Native American gang.

The three suspects, each gang members, fled to the Twin Cities area after they each took part in shooting the victim. What followed was a very good collaborative investigative effort that included investigators from the Department of Corrections, several Sheriff's Departments, the FBI, and the Minneapolis Police Department.

The Metro region of the MGSF actively pursued the suspects following leads and visiting several addresses for the weeks that followed. After about one-month, two adult suspects turned themselves into the Redwood County Sheriff. Because of the active pursuit in the metro area by MGSF investigators, they found there was no place to hide from the police.

Two adults and one juvenile suspect have been charged with a Homicide Committed for the Benefit of a Gang, and will be prosecuted by local prosecutors during February and March of 2003.

Aggravated Assault

In March, investigators assisted local police in Mankato with an assault on a "Maniac Vice Lord" gang member. He was beaten with bats and then stripped of his clothes, sprayed with hairspray, and then started on fire. The victim said four males with ski masks jumped him.

It was later determined the victim had been cheating on his girlfriend and she recruited fellow gang members to assist her in the assault that resulted in the victim being beaten and burned. Investigators determined the girlfriend had returned to Chicago, Illinois. She was arrested there and returned to Minnesota to stand trial.

Drive by Shooting

Investigators have seen an influx of "Latin King" gang members moving into the area, in particular the Marshall and Worthington areas. Earlier in the year, investigators were focusing on the methamphetamine sales being conducted in the area. In February, an apparent turf battle between two rival gang members resulted in a drive by shooting. Latin King gang members were involved in a drive by shooting against "Asian Lao Boys" gang members. Investigators were able to charge a Latin King with Riot in the 2nd Degree, 2nd Degree Assault, and a charge of Drive by Shooting for the Benefit of a Gang. The gang member has been convicted and sentenced.